

sector regarding their participation in certain areas of major ports;

(b) if so, the details thereof, portwise; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Government have received some proposals like, operation of a berth at Haldia, taking over of dry dock facilities on lease at Calcutta, operation of a Container Terminal at JNPT

(c) Government have approved in principle the proposal of leasing of dry docks on competitive tender basis. Government welcome private participation in the ports sector. Each case will be decided on its merits.

Export of Cashew Kernels

5008. SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a decline in the export of cashew kernels during January-November, 1991;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor,

(c) the steps taken to boost the export of cashew kernels, during 1992-93, and

(d) the extent to which the exports are likely to improve?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) As per the compilation brought out

by the DGCI&S, during January-November, 1991, cashew worth Rs.541.39 crores were exported as compared to Rs.387.77 crores during the corresponding period in 1990.

(c) The Government introduced a package of trade policy reforms aimed at strengthening of export incentives. This process has been accelerated with the measures outlined in the Budget proposals presented to Parliament by the Hon'ble Finance Minister on 29th February, 1992

In addition to the above, Export Promotion Councils will be participating in certain selected fairs abroad and delegations of exporters will interact with importers in different countries and also by participating in Buyer-Seller Meets.

(d) It will not be possible to quantify the likely improvement in exports.

Prices of Imported Raw Materials and Components

5009. SHRI ANNA JOSHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government are aware that as a result of devaluation of Indian Rupee last year, the prices of imported raw material and components have gone up,

(b) whether the indigenous industries have requested the Government for suitable price escalation for their products to the Government,

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reaction of the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM). (a) The prices of imported raw materials and components largely depend on the movement of prices for such

products in the international market. The downward adjustment in the exchange rate of Rupee effected in early July 1991 was expected to raise the landed cost of imported raw materials and components.

(b) to (d) The supplies to the Government are made on the basis of contracts entered into by the Government and the Domestic Supplier and decisions on request for price escalation whenever received by the contracting departments are taken based on the terms and conditions contained in the individual contracts.

Demands of Small Savings Agents

5010 SHRI ANNA JOSHI m Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the Union Government have received any memorandum from the All India Mahila Pradhan and Small Savings Agents Confederation,

(b) if so, the details of their demands, and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government to each of these demands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) (a) Yes Sir

(b) and (c) The demands of the Agents Federation for increasing the rate of commission to small savings agents, issue of identity slips to holders of National Savings Certificates VIII Issue and introduction of new schemes have not been agreed to. As regards the demand for quick settlement of commission claims of agents, necessary instructions have been issued in this regard.

[Translation]

Import of Foodgrains

5011 SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH
SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state

(a) the countries from which foodgrains were imported during the last year and the quantity thereof, and

(b) the countries from which foodgrains are proposed to be imported during the current year along with the quantity and the mode of payment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) (a) During 1990-91 a quantity of 0.45 lakh MT of rice was imported from Vietnam as repayment of commodity loan. No import of wheat was undertaken during 1990-91.

(b) No wheat and rice has been imported during 1991-92 so far. However, it has been decided to import one million tonnes of wheat during 1992 with a view to increase its availability and to contain the market prices, but no contracts have been finalised so far.

Per Capita Tax Revenue Collection

5012 SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) the per capita tax collected during the last three years State wise,

(b) whether the per capita tax collected in Bihar is higher than other States, and

(c) if so, the efforts, if any, made by the Union Government to reduce the per capita tax burden in Bihar?